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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
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HEADLINES

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US Launches Publicity Campaign to Get bin-Laden - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Ereli on Turkey-PKK: Responding to press questions regarding warnings by Turkish authorities that Turkey may launch a cross-border military incursion against the PKK, US State Department Spokesman Adam Ereli said he was unaware of such a statement, dailies report. `Both Turkey and the United States consider the PKK a terrorist organization, and they have a common interest in preventing the terrorist activities of the PKK,' Ereli said, adding that both countries would act in line with this common interest. Asked whether the US would allow Turkey to enter northern Iraq, Ereli said that this question is `not on the table.' If such a question were to arise, he added, it would be addressed by the relevant military authorities.

US Confirms Detention Orders for PKK Leaders in Iraq: A high-level US official in Ankara has confirmed a statement by General Ilker Basbug, Deputy Chief of TGS, that the US military has published an order to capture the PKK leadership cadre. In a statement to "Milliyet," the US official said that "in an instruction sent to US units in Iraq, the order was given for the arrest (capture) of PKK leaders described as "High Value Targets." In a press briefing on Tuesday, Basbug announced that the US had given an order for the arrest of the PKK leadership cadre in Iraq, but State Department Spokesman Adam Ereli created confusion when he said that he "didn't have any information" about such an order. The US official noted that the State Department can't always follow developments between the two countries' militaries. The US official continued: "What Basbug said is true. Such an order was published. The order was given by declaring the PKK leadership cadre as a high level target, calling for intelligence work to be done on them, and calling for them to be tracked and captured."

US Has `Other Priorities' in Iraq: Papers report that US Assistant Secretary for Detainee Affairs at the Pentagon,

Matthew C. Waxman, told journalists that US forces in Iraq 'priorities other than' the PKK. Responding to a question about whether there are any PKK members under arrest in northern Iraq, Waxman said the US fight is directed against groups like al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and their supporters. 'In Iraq, the US military arrests only those who threaten security and stability in the country,' Waxman said.

US: PKK Threats Against Turkey Must be Removed: The semi-official Anatolian News Agency reported from Baghdad that US military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Steve Boylan said that if PKK members are caught during operations against insurgents, they will be delivered to the Iraqi authorities. Boylan reiterated US determination to remove the PKK threat against Turkey from Iraq.

Turkey-Iraq-US Security Summit: Turkish papers report that the second three-way security meeting among Turkey, the United States, and Iraq will be held in Washington in the first week of August. At the second meeting, officials from the three countries will focus on the legal process concerning the extradition of PKK leaders.

Iraq and Neighbors Consider Protocol to Prevent Terrorist Infiltration: Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu said yesterday that the interior ministers of Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Bahrain, and Jordan agreed at a ministerial-level meeting of Iraq's neighbors in Istanbul on Tuesday to sign a protocol for the prevention of terrorist infiltration from Iraq into neighboring countries. Aksu said that Iraq and its neighbors also agreed to set up a general secretariat for monitoring implementation of the protocol in order to fight terrorism and organized crime, and to ensure border security.

Bashar Wants to Spend Holiday in Erdogan's Hometown: On Friday, Syria's Deputy Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem will convey to FM Abdullah Gul a letter in which Syrian President Bashar Assad asks Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan to spend his summer vacation in Turkey's Black Sea coastal city Rize, Erdogan's home town, "Zaman" reports. The letter also expresses gratitude for statements made by Erdogan during his visit to Washington earlier this month, "Zaman" claims. Gul and al-Muallem are expected to focus on the PKK issue at their meeting today.

Iraqi Turkmen Warn They May Shift to Armed Struggle: Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) UK representative Asif Sertturkmen complained in a press conference in Ankara about 'injustices' committed against the Turkmen in Iraq, and warned that if the situation continues, the group will be forced to resort to violence. 'To date, we have always used the tools of democracy, but if it becomes necessary, we too will take up arms. The situation in Iraq is moving in that direction,' he said. Sertturkmen urged Turkey to take action and do more than 'closely monitoring' events. Meanwhile, papers report that Turkmen in Iraq warned they may boycott a referendum on the Iraqi constitution on October 15 unless their demands are met. The Turkmen want their language to be recognized as among the official languages of Iraq. They are also demanding a special status for Kirkuk, and insisting that the Turkmen be recognized as one of Iraq's constituent people.

PKK Gets Ammunition, Money from the Middle East, Europe: The conservative/pro-government "Turkiye" claims that last year, the PKK made a deal with arms traders in the Middle East to for the supply of ammunition to carry out terror attacks in Turkey. Turkish intelligence has learned that the arms dealers sold the PKK explosives, guns, mortars, and anti-aircraft missiles at discount prices. Intelligence reports say that a Lebanese bank acted as a conduit for money transfers to the terrorist organization. "Turkiye" notes that the PKK has been extorting money from Kurdish businessmen in Europe to fund its terrorist activities.

Karayilan May Turn Himself in to Iranians: FBIS reports that the pro-Kurdish "Nasname" webpage claimed that Murat Karayilan, one of the leaders of the PKK, is secretly negotiating with the Iranians on the conditions for turning himself in to Iranian security forces. According to earlier unconfirmed reports, Karayilan's five bodyguards were killed during an assassination attempt carried out by men loyal to Duran Kalkan and Cemil Bayik, two other PKK leaders. Reports claimed that Karayilan has maintained close contact with Turkish and Iranian security forces, and is conducting negotiations in order to reach an agreement about the conditions for surrendering himself together with more than 1,000 militants from the 'People's Defense Forces (HPG).'

New 'Kurdistan' Map Submitted to Iraqi Parliament: Iraqi Kurdish leaders have presented a new map of 'Kurdistan' to the Iraqi parliament, demanding that it be taken into account in the drafting of the new constitution, Turkish papers report. The map includes Kirkuk within the boundaries of Kurdistan, and expands the area controlled by

Kurdish parties the Badra and Cassan districts southeast of Baghdad.

Erbil Police Want US Security Guards Handed Over: Police in Kurdish-dominated Erbil in northern Iraq have asked US authorities to hand over a group of private American security guards for allegedly shooting at KDP official Bayez Ismail while he was in his car, Turkish papers report. During the incident that occurred on July 14, Ismail's brother was severely wounded when the guards opened fire on the car, which was reportedly traveling too close to the Americans' vehicle. The US military has launched an investigation into the incident.

Erdogan's Upcoming London Visit Unchanged: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul strongly condemned yesterday's terrorist attacks in London, and pledged Turkey's readiness to cooperate in the fight against terrorism. Gul noted that no changes have been made with regard to Prime Minister Erdogan's scheduled visit to London at the end of July.

US to Modernize Turkish F-16s: US-based Lockheed-Martin has won a contract worth 800 million USD awarded by the US Air Force for the modernization of Turkey's F-16 jetfighters, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency (AA) reported from Washington. The modernized F-16s will become operational in 2011. Lockheed-Martin's deputy chairman for programs, June Shrewsbury, said the company was pleased by the progress in its long-standing cooperation with the Turkish government and defense industry.

American Ships to be Dismantled in Turkey: "Vatan" reports that 77 US naval vessels that contain toxic substances such as asbestos, quicksilver, and lead will be sent to Turkey for dismantling. The timeworn ships will be taken apart in Turkey's Aegean coastal city of Izmir by the "Environmental Recycling Systems" (ERS) company, which will receive 21 million USD for carrying out the project. "Vatan" claims that environmental organizations are preparing to take action against the dismantling of vessels in Turkey. The US-based NGO Basel Action has expressed concern that the dismantling may present a safety hazard. A spokesman for ERS said the company observes high security standards during the dismantling process, adding that there is high demand in developing countries for aged vessels' junk metal components, boilers, and machines. The US Congress voted to remove the vessels from their port in Virginia before the end of 2006.

HRW Urges US to Destroy Cluster Bombs: New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) urged the United States to destroy "millions" of cluster bombs in its stockpile, "Yeni Safak" reports. Bonnie Docherty of HRW said the cluster bombs posed a great danger to civilians, and said they should never be used.

Greek-Armenian Companies Cooperate in Nagorno-Karabakh: "Milliyet" reports that a leading Greek telecommunications company, Intrakom, will make investments worth 22.8 million Euro in Nagorno Karabakh to support the Armenian mobile phone operator Vivacell. A deal was signed between the two companies on Tuesday. "Milliyet" sees the deal as a Greek effort to retaliate against Azerbaijani moves aimed at ending the international isolation of the Turkish Cypriots.

PKK Militants, Soldier Killed in Fighting in Van: Two PKK militants and one Turkish soldier were killed on Thursday in fighting in Turkey's eastern province of Van, near the border with Iran, papers report. The PKK fighters reportedly opened fire against a group of jandarma patrolling a remote area in the province. Turkish forces launched an operation in pursuit of the terrorists.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Terror in London

"Defiance"
Gungor Mengi wrote in the mass appeal "Vatan" (7/22): "The remarks of the London Mayor were very interesting, and they serve to put Al-Qaeda terrorism into a context. After the first bombings, Livingstone emphasized that the Middle East policies pursued by western powers have caused an increase in radical Islamists and helped Al-Qaeda to grow. A rebellious soul who cries out against perceived injustice and humiliation can easily end up turning to violence. Ignoring this fact will bring more disasters. Yet it is equally true that more disasters are ahead if there is no change in the mentality that only terrorism can open the eyes of modern societies. Western countries are moving toward a vicious circle. Their insecurity due to terrorism has encouraged them to take even more rigid steps. In the event that this insecurity results in a view that all Muslims as potential terrorists, there will be more pressure and more feeling of alienation. In that case, Al-Qaeda will find it very easy to recruit new bombers."

"The Fight Against Fundamentalism"

Erdal Safak noted in the mass appeal "Sabah" (7/22): "The civilized world is on the verge of a crucial decision in the fight against fanatical religious terror. The options are either to carry out an armed struggle against the enemy, as George Bush has proposed, or to eliminate the fundamentalist elements in Islam, as suggested by Tony Blair. The second option seems the right one, and it is the only way to invalidate Samuel Huntington's theory on the 'clash of civilizations.' A long-term study with international participation can invalidate this argument. If Blair manages to convene such a conference, the essence of the issue will become perfectly clear: this is a social crisis in the Muslim world that has both cultural and economic dimensions, but it is not a war of religions. The political dimension of this issue includes the situations in Palestine, Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Iraq. The cultural dimension is about ongoing western efforts to impose their values as global values. "

"Al Qaeda's Drive For Power "

Erdal Guven commented in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (7/22): "The occupation of Iraq is only one of many reasons for the increase in Al-Qaeda terrorism. The invasion of Iraq alone cannot explain the al-Qaeda terror attacks in London and other western cities. Al Qaeda is not looking to achieve a well-defined and limited goal. . It will not consider its job as done even if the US and UK completely withdraw from the Middle East, including Iraq and Afghanistan. On the contrary, al-Qaeda will then be able to start its real job. If there is a withdrawal, Al-Qaeda will start targeting Islamic regimes which it considers to be antithetical to its extremist ideology. Al-Qaeda's struggle is about power, and it started before 9/11. It reached its peak on 9/11, and has continued to this day. Al-Qaeda terror did not start with the occupation of Iraq, and will not end if and when this occupation is terminated."

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